CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A wireless mobile phone comprising:
        a plurality of components coupled to each other to facilitate wireless
5 telephony communication by a user;
        a camera to facilitate real time taking of a photograph; and
        operating logic to receive the photograph and to operate the components
depending on whether the user is successfully authenticated based at least in
part on the photograph.

10 2.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 1, wherein the operating logic further
comprises logic to compare the photograph against a reference photograph.

3.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 1, wherein the operating logic further
comprises logic to save the photograph as a reference photograph for
authentication.

15 4.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 1, wherein the wireless mobile phone
further comprises a reader to facilitate provision of a reference photograph via an
identity card, for use to authenticate the user.

5.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 4, wherein the reference photograph is
stored in said identity card in a manner to be read by a reader selected from a
20 reader group consisting of an electronic reader, an optical reader and a magnetic
reader.

6.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 1, wherein the photograph is a
photograph selected from the photograph group consisting of a photograph of the
user' face, a photograph of a body part of the user, a photograph of an article,
25 and a photograph of an object,

7.   In a wireless mobile phone, a method of operation comprising:
        taking a photograph;

authenticating the user using the photograph; and

operating a plurality of components of the wireless mobile phone to
facilitate wireless telephony communication by the user, in a manner that is
dependent on whether the user was successful authenticated based at least in
5   part on the photograph.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises comparing
the photograph against a reference photograph.

9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises saving the
photograph as a reference photograph for authentication.

10   10.   The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises retrieving
the reference photograph from an identity card.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein said retrieving comprises a retrieving
operation selected from the retrieving operation group consisting of an electronic
retrieval operation, an optical retrieval operation, and a magnetic retrieval
15   operation.

12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the photograph is a photograph selected
from the photograph group consisting of a photograph of the user' face, a
photograph of a body part of the user, a photograph of an article, and a
photograph of an object,

20   13.   A wireless mobile phone comprising:

a plurality of components coupled to each other to facilitate wireless
telephony communication by a user, with the components being equipped to
operate in at least a selected one of a first mode and a second mode; and

operating logic to operate the components in said first mode without
25   authentication of the user, and to operate the components in said second mode if
the user is successfully authenticated based at least in part on an authentication
reference retrieved from an identity card.

14.   The wireless mobile phone of claim 13, wherein the operating logic enables the components to provide first one or more functions while operating the components in said first mode, including retrieval of the authentication reference from the identity card, and further enables the components to provide second

5   additional one or more functions, while operating the components in said second mode.

15.   In a wireless mobile phone, a method of operation comprising:
          operating a plurality of components coupled to each other to facilitate wireless telephony communication by a user, in a first mode, prior to

10   authenticating the user;
          retrieving an authentication reference from an identity card;
          receiving an input for authenticating the user; and
          operating the components in a second mode if the user is successfully authenticated based at least in part on the input and the retrieved authentication

15   reference.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said operating of the plurality of components in said first mode comprises enabling the components to provide first one or more functions, including retrieval of the authentication reference from the identity caard, and said operating of the plurality of components in said

20   second mode comprises enabling the components to further provide second one or more functions.